

Response

1	WASHINGTON STATE
2	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
3	ORIGINAL
4	
5	SPOKANE NORTH/SOUTH FREEWAY ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING
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8	BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 28th day of
9	September 1995, at the hour of 7:05 p.m., the
10	Spokane North/South Freeway Environmental Hearing was
11	taken at the request of the Washington State Department
12	of Transportation, before Caryn E. Winters, RPR, CSR, a
13	notary public and court reporter, CSR No.
14	WI-NT-EC-E395KE, at Shadle Park High School Auditorium,
15	Spokane, Washington.
16	
17	<u>A P P E A R A N C E S:</u>
18	PANEL MEMBERS:
19	Lenzi
20	Jerry Lenzi
21	Region Administrator, DOT
22	2714 N. Mayfair
23	Spokane, Washington 99207
24	Harold White
25	Project Engineer, DOT
	2714 N. Mayfair
	Spokane, Washington 99207
	OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
	Jeffrey Stier
	Assistant Attorney General
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	OCT 26 1995
	HAROLD WHITE, P.E.

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1 MR. STIER: Excuse me, folks. I believe
2 it's seven o'clock and we're -- or shortly thereafter,
3 and we'd like to get underway.

4 All you folks can take your seats, and I've
5 got a couple of comments.

6 My name is Jeff Stier. I'm an assistant
7 attorney general. I'm from Olympia right now but I grew
8 up in Spokane ~~and am familiar with this area.~~ But I'm here to preside over this
9 meeting.

10 It's an opportunity for members of the public
11 to provide input and comments and ask questions of the
12 representatives of the ~~Washington State~~ Department of Washington
13 Transportation.

14 This is a hearing regarding the Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed
16 North/South Freeway.

17 And present today is Jerry Lenzi, who is the
18 administrator for the eastern region. Seated to his left
19 is Harold White, who is the project engineer and involved
20 in this project.

21 At this point I'd like to turn the floor over
22 to Mr. Lenzi, who has some comments for you.

23 MR. LENZI: Thank you, Jeff. I am Jerry
24 Lenzi. I'm the regional administrator for the Washington
25 State Department of Transportation headquartered here in

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1 Spokane.

2 I would like to make a few additional
3 comments in terms of who we have here.

4 We have also with us in the audience the
5 vice-chair of our Transportation Commission, Linda
6 Tompkins. Linda's going to say a few words as soon as
7 I'm done here.

8 I would also point out that we have a woman
9 here to my right by the name of Judy Cordura. Judy is
10 signing for the hearing impaired. If you or a friend
11 or an acquaintance of yours is hearing impaired, please
12 let us know. Her and Brian Jefferson, who's sitting in
13 front of her, will be here for the first 30 minutes. And
14 if you need them to stay longer than that they will.

15 If someone happens to come in after the
16 hearing is underway and they leave they do have a pager.
17 We can contact them to come back. So please let us know.

18 The other thing I'd like to introduce is
19 Caryn Winters. She's to my extreme left over here.
20 She's recording this whole proceeding. The court
21 reporter.

22 And we're also ^{taping} ~~taking~~ this on video so we
23 have a complete record of this hearing.

24 I would introduce some of the elected
25 officials. My concern is I probably will miss some.

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1 I've been contacted by several of the legislative aids.
2 I know that Senator Moyer, Representative Dellwo and
3 Representative Brown are at a town hall meeting right now
4 in another part of town and could not attend this. And
5 there are members of the Spokane City Council here, I
6 know, and staff members from Spokane County.

7 The purpose of this hearing is to gather
8 information from the public and other agencies about the
9 alternatives that we've studied and presented in this
10 Draft Environmental Impact Statement that has been out
11 and been circulated in the last several days.

12 The objective of this Environmental Impact
13 Statement is to recommend an alternative that balances
14 the region's transportation needs with environmental
15 issues, both for construction and operations.

16 This is not to say that there will not be
17 impacts to the environment or impacts to the various
18 different elements. We're trying to find ^a the best fit.

19 This EIS, and that's what you'll hear for the
20 first time, EIS is Environmental Impact Statement, is a
21 tool to identify the transportation, economic,
22 environmental impacts associated with the various
23 alternatives presented in this Draft EIS.

24 I should point out that a lot of people are
25 confused that this EIS is the Department of

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1 Transporation's idea. We certainly are instrumental in a
2 lot of the information, a lot of the work in this, but
3 this whole effort is guided by an interdisciplinary team.

4 That interdisciplinary team is comprised of
5 ~~Meri Berberet~~ ^{Area} ~~Mary Barbieri~~, Spokane/Economic Development Council, ^{Glenn}
6 ~~Charlie Beween~~, city of Spokane Planning, ^{Lynn Miles,}
7 Spokane Regional Transportation Council, ^{Grant Pfeifer,}
8 Washington State Department of Ecology, Leonard Tesch, ^{Cash}
9 Washington State Department of Transportation and
10 Regional Planning, ^{Engineer} and Bill Johns, recently came on the
11 IDT replacing Wallace Hubbard for Spokane County.

12 And Harold White, who sits ~~over~~ to the left
13 over here, was the facilitator and chair of this IDT.

14 This IDT was appointed in 1991 to help direct
15 the design and assess the environmental studies. There
16 were several cooperating agencies. Naming some of the
17 ones that were more prominent, the Bonville Power
18 Administration, due to the proximity of the Bell
19 Substation up in northeast Spokane, and the Environmental
20 Protection Agency because their jurisdiction stems from
21 the Safe Drinking Water Act and we are over the
22 Spokane/Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer.

23 In terms of the Army Corps of Engineers, ^a the
24 nationwide 404 permit appears to suffice for that.

25 There have been several outside affected

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1 agencies and property owners along the various build
2 corridors of study. They include school districts, the
3 Burlington Northern Railroad, Kaiser Aluminum and
4 Chemical Corporation, Spokane Parks and ^{Recreation} ~~Recreation~~
5 Department, Spokane County Planning Commission, the city
6 of Spokane Planning Commission, Community Colleges of
7 Spokane, area emergency services and a host of others.

8 Obviously there were several neighborhood
9 groups that were active during this process. I will
10 not give all of them, but I'll mention a few just to give
11 you an idea.

12 These groups include the East Central, the
13 Northeast, Logan and Chief Garry Park neighborhoods.
14 There are also groups in the Cooper School area ^{Carriage Hills} and a
15 citizens group named Protect Our Neighborhood Integrity
16 that have been actively involved in providing comments.

17 This is a Washington State Department of
18 Transportation project and funded through our budget,
19 although we are conducting the Environmental Impact
20 Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act in
21 cooperation and coordination with the Federal Highway
22 Administration.

23 The reason for that is very simple. When we
24 get through this process and we have an opportunity to
25 fund some of these situations we need the entire mix of

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1 available funding we could get. That would include
2 federal, state and possibly local.

3 We also recognize the transportation needs at
4 times conflict with neighborhoods and businesses. With
5 the future needs of providing a more efficient facility
6 for movement of people and goods, it will become even
7 more critical to continue the dialogue towards the goal
8 of resolving these conflicts.

9 This project, I want to be very up front, is
10 not a magic bullet that is going to solve every
11 north/south transportation problem in the Spokane area.
12 But we believe it is a pivotal ingredient in moving
13 toward solving some of those transportation problems and
14 addressing those needs.

15 We do welcome your comments on the proposed
16 alternatives, and you can give these tonight in oral form
17 or you can provide ^{then through} written statements. I would encourage
18 you to think about this.

19 If you give oral testimony tonight, if you go
20 home and say "Gee, I forgot to make a couple of extra
21 points," jot them down and send them to us. The record
22 will be open. And you should have your written
23 statements postmarked by October 27th and sent to us at
24 North 2714 Mayfair, Spokane, 99207.

25 At this time I will stop and I will turn

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